

Presenters

Lisa Ruble, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Louisville Health Sciences Center. She is a licensed psychologist and Director of the STAR (Systematic Treatment of Autism and Related Disorders) program which is located in the Weisskopf Child Evaluation Center. Dr. Ruble's research interests focus on improving services and outcomes for children and families by bridging the gap between research and practice. She was recently awarded an NIH grant to study teacher training and autism. She has published several peer-reviewed articles and is chair of the Autism Interest Group for the National Association of School Psychologists. Dr. Ruble co-authored the Technical Assistance Manual for Autism in Kentucky Schools. She is also a member of the Autism Spectrum Disorders Advisory Consortium and the Kentucky Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders and chairs the committee on Best Practices and Training.

Trisha Gallagher, M.Ed., is a program coordinator in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Louisville Health Sciences Center. She is a certified special education teacher and coordinates the STAR Early Childhood Program. Ms. Gallagher provides direct clinical services, consults with families on educational issues, conducts school consultations and in-services, and participates in research. Ms. Gallagher has worked in the school system and in private settings with children who have autism and other disabilities for 14 years. She has presented at various conferences and was a panelist on KETs *About Autism: Diagnosis and Early Intervention*.

Grace Mathai, M.A., is a Licensed Psychological Associate in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Louisville Health Sciences Center. She provides direct clinical services,

outreach consultations and participates in ongoing research at the STAR program. Ms. Mathai has extensive experience in Nova Scotia, Canada where she coordinated treatment services for children with autism and their families, developed individualized treatment programs while also providing training and supervision to frontline staff involved in the direct care of individuals with autism.

The STAR program at the University of Louisville is dedicated to bringing the most current and accurate information to those dedicated to working with individuals on the autism spectrum. Interventions reflect the most recent and empirical approaches to treatment and often involve coordination across several disciplines. This program is designed primarily for educators, school personnel, and professionals in the fields of psychology, social work, speech and language, and occupational therapy. Physicians, parents and individuals with autism and their families can benefit as well.

Continuing Education Credit:
(6.0 CEU & Certificate of Attendance)

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Evidence-Based Practices in Autism



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STAR

Systematic Treatment of Autism & Related Disorders
Weisskopf Child Evaluation Center
University of Louisville



Richmond, KY
February 23, 2006
Louisville, KY
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Systematic Treatment of Autism & Related Disorders (STAR)

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Course Description

Autism spectrum disorders (ASD) affect about 1 out of 166 children. Although the cause of autism remains unclear, recent advances in treatment methods have improved the outcomes of children. Because individuals with autism respond best to specialized treatment strategies, it is necessary for all personnel who provide educational, medical, and mental health services to understand best practices and what teaching methodologies are based on research. This presentation will include a step-by-step description on how to develop a solid research-supported program starting from parent and teacher/professional collaboration, and ending with goal attainment. Case examples will be provided throughout the presentation.

Seminar Highlights

- Evidence-based practices and research-supported interventions in autism
- Best practices for working with families
- An action plan for creating a research-supported program

Learning Objectives

- Upon completion of this conference, the attendee will be able to:
1. Describe research supported practices in educating children with ASD
 2. Describe best practices for working with families
 3. Develop a research supported individualized education plan

Conference Agenda

8:00 a.m.—8:50 a.m.
Registration

9:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Best Practices

- A. Definition of Evidence Based Practice
- B. Efficacy vs. Effectiveness

What are the Evidence-Based Practices in Autism Spectrum Disorder?

- A. National Research Council Recommendations
 - *Educational Services
 - *Effective Interventions
- B. Systematic Teaching Methods
 - *Applied Behavior Analysis
 - *Structured Teaching
 - *Discrete Trial Training
 - *Pivotal Response Training
 - *Incidental Teaching

10:30 a.m.—10:45 a.m.
Break

10:45 a.m.—12:15 p.m.
Steps to Create a Research Supported Program

- A. Federal and State Requirements
- B. What’s Unique to Autism
- C. Assessment for Program Planning
- D. Goal Setting
- E. Selection of Teaching Method(s)
- F. Selection of Teaching Context
- G. Data Collection and Monitoring

12:15 p.m.—1:15 p.m.
Lunch Break (on your own)

1:15 p.m.—3:30 p.m. (Break 2:45 p.m.—3:00 p.m.)
Best Practices for Working with Families

- A. IEP Development
- B. Skill Development
- C. Consultation
- D. Family Support and Service Coordination

Overcoming the Challenges in Implementing Best Practices

- A. Teaming and Planning
- B. Parent-Teacher/Professional Collaboration
- C. Classroom-Wide Approaches
- D. Goal Attainment/Data Monitoring
- E. Putting It All Together: Case Studies

3:30 p.m.—4:15 p.m.
Questions

Site Information

February 23, 2006—Richmond, KY
Eastern Kentucky University
Perkins Building 521 Lancaster Avenue
(859)622-1444

February 24, 2006—Louisville, KY
Baptist Hospital East
Educational Center 4000 Kresge Way
(502)897-8100

March 2, 2006—Bowling Green, KY
Carroll Knicely Conference Center
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Evidence-Based Practices in Autism
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